

April— June 2021

# LAKESIDE NEWS



**SGT. CAUSSEAUX  
AND CHICO  
ATTEND NEXT  
LEVEL K9 TEXAS  
WORKSHOP**

PAGE 5

**VOLUNTEER  
SPOTLIGHT**

PAGE 11

**HICKORY  
CREEK  
RESIDENT  
CELEBRATES  
100TH  
BIRTHDAY**

PAGE 6

**NEIGHBORHOOD  
CAMERA INITIATIVE**

PAGE 9

# A LETTER FROM YOUR MAYOR

Dear Fellow Citizens,

I am pleased to announce that the Town of Hickory Creek has once again received an excellent audit by Carl Deaton of Hankins, Eastup, Deaton, Tonn and Seay Accounting Firm. The town's financial statements of governmental activities and all accounting activities are audited annually to ensure compliance with standards contained in the Governmental Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. The following statements can be found in the 2020 Town of Hickory Creek Financial Statements and Accountant's Opinion:



## Financial Highlights

- The assets and deferred outflows of resources of the Town of Hickory Creek exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows at September 30, 2020 by \$15,003,161. Of this amount, \$3,144,750 may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.
- The Town's total net position increased by \$517,485 during the fiscal year from the results of current year operations.
- As of September 30, 2020, the Town of Hickory Creek's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$4,844,240, a decrease of \$125,829 in comparison with the beginning of the period. Approximately 70 percent of this total amount, \$3,398,946, is available for spending at the government's discretion (*unassigned fund balance*).
- At the end of the current period, unassigned fund balance for the general fund of \$3,398,946 was 68.25 percent of total general fund expenditures
- The fund balance of the Town's general fund decreased by \$86,420 during the current year compared to a \$105,769 increase in the prior year. Key factors are as follows:
  - Revenues increased \$811,981 or 19.89% from the previous year, primarily due to increases in building permits and sales tax revenues.
  - Expenditures increased \$952,602 or 2.65% from the previous year, primarily due to increased street maintenance and capital outlay expenditures

Hickory Creek's annual budget and full audit report can be found on our town website, [www.hickorycreek-tx.gov](http://www.hickorycreek-tx.gov) > Departments & Services > Administration and Finance > Audits (or Budgets).

For the past year, I have participated in weekly Zoom calls concerning the Covid-19 pandemic with County officials. Excellent teamwork and relationship building through these calls has been one of the silver linings that has come from the pandemic. These established relationships proved to be vital during our recent winter storm. All of our elected officials, including our Legislative delegation, came together to make sure our communities and our needs were heard by our utility companies. We are also working together to debrief and to plan for future emergencies. I have heard from officials in other counties that they do not have the relationships we have in Denton County. I am proud to live and serve in Denton County, and I am grateful for our County Commissioner, Bobbie Mitchell, our County Judge Andy Eads, and all of our Commissioners, for their excellent leadership during these troubled times.

The past year has been especially hard on so many, whether due to COVID-19 or the winter storm. I am especially proud of the way our community has come together, and I am grateful to live in a community that cares. COVID numbers have already dropped significantly in Denton County, and all of the trends are positive. I know that even better days are ahead! We are #HickoryCreekStrong #DentonCountyStrong

Best regards,

Lynn Clark

# ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION NAMES HICKORY CREEK TREE CITY USA® FOR 13TH YEAR

---

On February 22, 2021, Hickory Creek Texas was named a 13th year Tree City USA® by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

Hickory Creek achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

“Everyone benefits when elected officials, volunteers and committed citizens in communities like Hickory Creek make smart investment in urban forests,” said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “Trees bring shade to our homes and beauty to our neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.

About the Arbor Day Foundation: The Arbor Day Foundation is a million-member nonprofit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. More information on the program is available at [arborday.org/TreeCityUSA](http://arborday.org/TreeCityUSA).





**Gift cards** are a popular and convenient way to give someone a gift. They're also a popular way for scammers to steal money from you. That's because gift cards are like cash: if you buy a gift card and someone uses it, you probably cannot get your money back.

Sometimes the scammers will use special computer software to “**spoof**” (send false information to change the caller ID on your end), making it easier to believe the scammers are calling from a place you trust, such as a bank, your police department, or other government entities.

**GIFT CARDS ARE FOR GIFTS, NOT PAYMENTS.**

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Many different kinds of imposters ask you to pay with gift cards. Someone might call you and claim to be from the IRS, collecting back taxes or fines. The caller might say he's from tech support, asking for money to fix your computer. The caller might even say she's a family member with an emergency and needs money right now.

**ANYONE WHO DEMANDS PAYMENT BY GIFT CARD IS ALWAYS A SCAMMER.**



**By being informed and making sure your loved ones are in the loop, you play an important part in staying safe from scams.**

*If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your Hickory Creek Police Department. We are here to serve you!*



## SGT. CAUSSEAUX AND CHICO ATTEND NEXT LEVEL K9 TEXAS WORKSHOP



Hickory Creek's Sgt. Causseaux and K9 partner, Chico, attended a week long Next Level K9 Texas Workshop the second week of March. The event was hosted by Prosper Independent School District and was lead by their K9 Officer and The National Narcotic Detector Dog Association, Inc. (NNDDA) Certifying Official Steven Antommarchi. The workshop involved over forty K9 teams from nine different states and included bomb detection dogs, narcotics only dogs (single purpose) and patrol dogs (dual purpose). Each area was instructed by a certified instructor that specialized in each area to improve each team on a one-on-one basis. During the workshop, most K9 teams certified through the national organization, The National Narcotic Detector Dog Associate, Incorporated (NNDDA). During the event, Sgt. Causseaux and K9 partner, Chico, for the first time, certified as a dual purpose team so they can better serve and protect the citizens of Hickory Creek.



For several months leading up to the event, Sgt. Causseaux and Chico have been training with Officer Antommarchi and have made significant improvements to obtain the dual purpose verification. Stg. Causseaux and Chico are part of a training group led by Officer Antommarchi that includes Frisco, Grapevine, Prosper, and Northeast Police Departments and Rockwall County SO. The training group meets weekly and continues to improve as a team.



# HICKORY CREEK RESIDENT CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY



## Proclamation

by the  
Mayor of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas

*WHEREAS, Warren Fata was born on March 4, 1921, and will be celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year; and*

*WHEREAS, Warren was born in Mount Union, Pennsylvania, growing up in Chicago, Illinois; and*

*WHEREAS, Warren served in the United States Air Force during World War II and the Korean War; and*

*WHEREAS, On February 26, 1943 Warren married the love of his life, Rose and they were happily married for 65 years, raising two sons, Warren, Jr. and Roger; and*

*WHEREAS, Warren and Rose made Hickory Creek their home in 1995, becoming dedicated volunteers for the community and were honored as the 1998 Citizens of the Year; and*

*WHEREAS, Warren faithfully served on the Town Council and Planning and Zoning Commission.*

*WHEREAS, The Hickory Creek Town Council congratulates and celebrates this amazing milestone, "100 years of memories and 100 years of life."*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lynn C. Clark, Mayor of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas, on behalf of the Hickory Creek Town Council, do hereby wish Warren Fata a very Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the Town of Hickory Creek, Texas to be affixed this the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2021.*



*Lynn C. Clark*  
Lynn C. Clark, Mayor

ATTEST:

*Kristi K. Rogers*  
Kristi K. Rogers, Town Secretary

On March 4, 2021 Hickory Creek resident Warren Fata celebrated his 100th birthday! Mr. Fata has called Hickory Creek his home for over twenty five years. Mr. Fata served in the Air Force and was a dedicated volunteer in our community. Mayor Clark presented Mr. Fata with a proclamation read at the Special Meeting of the Town Council on March 1. On behalf of the Town of Hickory Creek, Happy 100th Birthday, Mr. Fata!

20

# Great American Cleanup

21

Please join us for the Town of Hickory Creek's  
*Great American Cleanup*

March 1 - April 30

- ◆ Socially distanced and contactless event
- ◆ Go out anytime on your own between March 1 - April 30
- ◆ Prizes for most unique & largest litter finds
- ◆ Pick up supply bags from Town Hall during business hours
- ◆ Enjoy time outdoors at our beautiful parks
- ◆ Free Clean and Green carwash voucher in every bag

For more information, reserve supply bags, or contactless pickup e-mail  
[Ashley.Vinson@hickorycreek-tx.gov](mailto:Ashley.Vinson@hickorycreek-tx.gov)

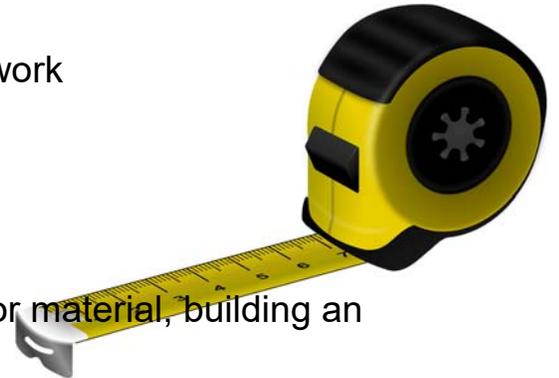


# WHEN DO YOU NEED A PERMIT?

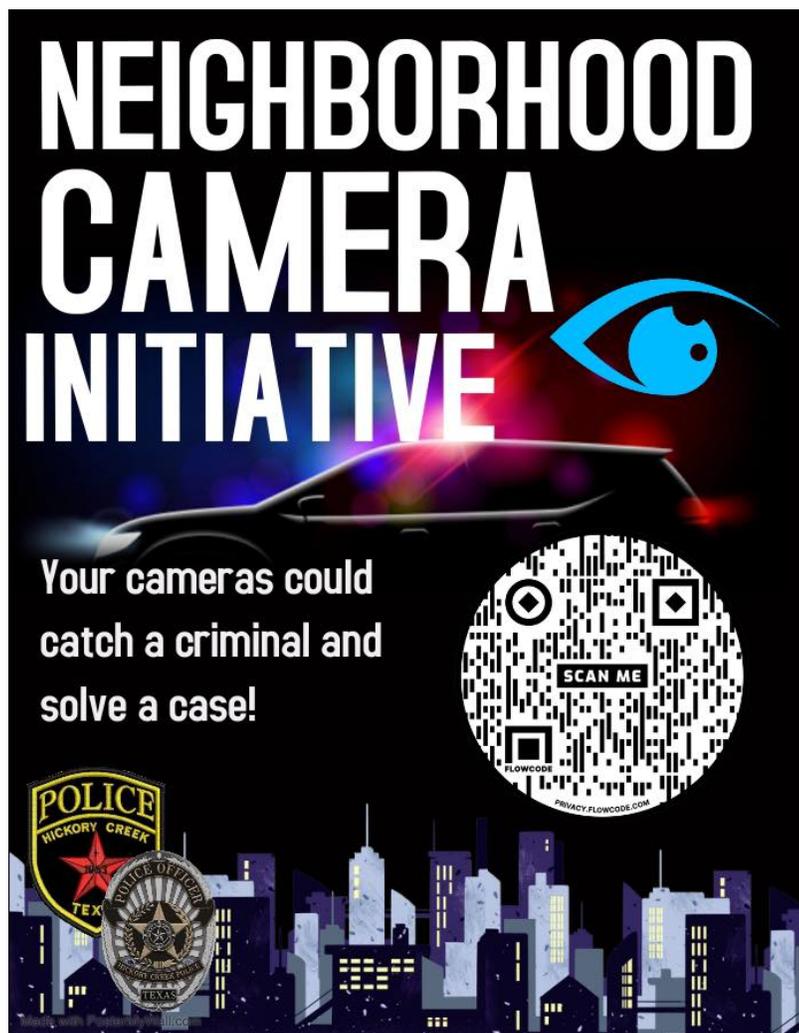


If you are doing any of the following projects, you **DO** need a permit: If you have any questions about the permitting process, please contact the Building Department at Town or call 940.497.2528 ext 225. Applications and a copy of the Permit Fee Schedule are available on the Permits page of the towns website. **PROJECTS STARTED WITHOUT A BUILDING PERMIT ARE SUBJECT TO DOUBLE PERMIT FEES.**

- Building a shed
- Replacing a roof
- Any project that makes structural changes to a building, such as adding a room
- HVAC repairs
- Electrical work
- Replacing a water heater or any other plumbing work
- Putting in a pool or spa
- Outdoor kitchens and patio covers
- Concrete work
- Replacing a fence or changing its location, size, or material, building an addition or garage
- Arbors and deck
- Tree trimming and removal
- Having a garage or estate sale



## Neighborhood Camera Initiative



Your cameras could catch a criminal and solve a case!

Hickory Creek Police Department is rolling out the Neighborhood Camera Initiative!

In an effort to increase solvability and prioritize property crimes, Investigators are asking for Hickory Creek residents to let us know if you have cameras!

By compiling a quick reference of cameras, Investigators can request video from homeowners quickly, before the retention period elapses. Lets get together and help out our friends, family, and neighbors.

## —REPUBLIC SERVICES SENIOR DISCOUNT—

Hickory Creek provides a 30% senior discount on trash and recycling services for residents over 65. To get signed up, bring your trash bill and drivers license to Town Hall and let us know you're eligible for the discount. The Town will contact Republic Services for your discount on future bills. Once your information has been submitted, there is no need to reapply each year. Senior discounts previously applied for with Waste Management will carry over to Republic Services.

# GARAGE SALE PERMIT

Spring is the perfect time to go through your house and get rid of unwanted items. If you want to hold a garage sale in Hickory Creek there are a few things to remember:

- ⇒ A permit is required. The permit fee is \$5. Only two sales may be held at an address per year.
- ⇒ The sale may last for 3 consecutive days and may open at sunrise.
- ⇒ The only items that can be sold are the used personal property of the residents holding the sale. Items purchased for resale or made specifically to be sold at an occasional sale are prohibited.
- ⇒ A total of 5 signs may be placed out. All signs must display the address, dates and times of the sale, and the permit number. They may be no larger than 4 square feet, be posted on a wood or metal spike in the ground and must be placed on private property. Any signs found on public right-of-ways, attached to any other signs, posts, poles or traffic control devices, or that do not have a valid permit number will be removed.
- ⇒ Signs may be placed out 24 hours before the sale starts and all signs and sale items need to be picked back up the morning after the sale closes.

If you have any questions about how to have a garage sale, please contact Code Enforcement at 940.497.2528 or pick up a copy of the Garage Sale Brochure at Town Hall.



## LIBRARY CARD REIMBURSEMENT

Looking for places to take the kids this summer? The Town of Hickory Creek offers our residents Denton and Lake Dallas library card reimbursements! The Town will reimburse residents up to \$50 per household. To receive the refund, bring the receipt from the Denton or Lake Dallas Library and a copy of your drivers license with your Hickory Creek address (or a utility bill with your address) and we will send a check to you in the mail for reimbursement.



## Volunteer Spotlight

*"There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer."*  
- James Doolittle

**Jozy Hernandez**  
Board of Adjustments  
Position 1

I have lived in the Lake Cities (Hickory Creek) for over 20 years. I currently serve as the Vice Chairman for the Board of Adjustments. I have also been involved with the COPS program for 2 years now. Might I add that I was tased during training!

I love to make people laugh, have a great time, love to fish, and play pool when I can. I enjoy giving back to the community because we as people are the community and we have to look out for one another, which in return will only make us stronger!



## Volunteer Spotlight

*"There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer."*  
- James Doolittle

**Dinah Stults**  
Parks & Recreations  
Position 7

I'm a fifth generation Texan and have lived in North Texas most of my life. I graduated from Highland Park High School in 1972, earned a BS in Social Science and BA in Anthropology from SMU in 1977 and married the love of my life in 1987. After living in Las Vegas for seven years we came home to Texas and lived in The Colony until 2003.

For several years, I'd been looking for a home we could share with my mom, and the moment I pulled into the driveway of a house for sale on the east side of Hickory Creek my heart started pounding. I just knew. We enjoyed ten happy years here with her until she passed away in May 2014. Now it's just Steve and me, and Shorty, a Chorky we rescued in 2010. We still love it here.

After nearly fifty years in the work force, I retired from the health insurance industry in December 2019. I planned to pursue Master Naturalist training, but classes didn't start until summer, so to fill the time while still following my interests I applied to the Parks and Recreation Board. I was happily surprised to be chosen as a member in early 2020, and have been pleased to serve as team leader for the town's efforts to be certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation. In November 2020 I completed my training and became certified as a Master Naturalist. It's been truly fulfilling being able to use what I've learned to help guide Hickory Creek in becoming more protective of our precious native habitats and ecosystems.



## Volunteer Spotlight

*"There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer."*  
- James Doolittle

**Larry Crawford**  
Board of Adjustments  
Position 2

I first moved to Texas in 1982 when I transferred to Dallas for a management position with American Airlines. In 1997 I purchased a lot in Hickory Creek, we started building in 2014, completed the project in 2015, and I was able to be the general contractor and architect. During the process I had to meet with the Board of Adjustments to have a variance approved before I could obtain my building permit. This event sparked my interest in serving the Hickory Creek citizens on this specific board.

Brenda Crawford is my lovely wife and she is a retired educator who still teaches part-time virtually at the University of Alabama. I also teach intermediate English virtually to students in the Ukraine through Michael Gott International Ministries. I serve Gideons International in a regional capacity.

My wife and I dock a boat at Lakeview Marina. We enjoy fishing and cruising Lake Lewisville which is one of our happiest hobbies. If the weather is great, you can find us out on the lake!



## Volunteer Spotlight

*"There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer."*  
- James Doolittle

**Gwen McIntosh**  
Parks & Recreations  
Position 6

I was born in Naples Italy and moved to the US when I was 3 months old. My father was a career US Navy chief, so we moved around quite a bit, but I spent more of my teen and early adult life in Jacksonville, Florida. In 2000 I received my MBA from Webster University while working full time at UPS. In 2004 I married my husband, Geoff and in that same year he was transferred to Dallas. UPS was able to find me a job at DFW, so I was able to follow him and keep my job. On December 31, 2020 I retired from UPS after 33 years as a supervisor in the Industrially Engineering department.

In July 2015 we moved into our current home in Hickory Creek. Geoff and I love the community and the people. The longer we live here the more I want to get involved with the town and local community. In 2019 I became an alternate for the Board of Adjustments and in 2020 an opening on the Board of Parks and Recreations became available which I applied for and received.

My community involvement so far in Texas has been with United Way, National Federation of the Blind, Salvation Army, and Event Lead American Cancer Association Relay for Life of Denton for 6 years. The reason I love to volunteer is twofold. It expands my mind and allows me to meet new and interesting people that have something to teach me.

My hobbies include sewing, knitting, beading, and just about any other type of crafting you can think of. I have always enjoyed photography and plan on taking my camera out more now that I am retired.







## SPRING TREE CARE CHECKLIST: PREPARE IN 3 PHASES

From Davey Proven Solutions for a Growing World.

We'll bet you're ready for spring. We know we are!

Now is the time to make sure your trees are just as prepared. Follow the phases of spring care below to boost tree nutrients and strength for a healthy growing season.

### PHASE 1: BEFORE WAVING WINTER GOODBYE

Inspect your trees for signs of winter damage or disease while they are still bare.

Prune dead, diseased or unsafe branches before spring growth. Waiting to prune in warmer weather may lead to an unwelcome spread of pests and diseases.

### PHASE II: A PRE-BLOOM PREP

Remove fallen leaves, branches and waste from your landscape to set the stage for healthy growth.

Feed your trees the nutrients they crave after winter. A slow release fertilizer helps trees defend against pests and diseases.

### PHASE III: DURING SPRINGTIME SPROUTS

Plant new trees to maximize energy saving and property enhancing benefits. Before planting, make sure to secure an ideal growing spot.

Add 2 to 4 inches of mulch around your trees to improve soil moisture and control weeds.



# COMMUNITY REMINDERS



## ANIMAL REGISTRATION

Residents are required to register all cats and dogs with Animal Services. There is no charge to register but you must have a valid copy of their rabies vaccination certificate. Residents may register animals at the animal shelter, town hall or online.

---

## ALARM PERMITS

All commercial and residential alarm systems are required to register every January. First time residential alarm systems require a \$50 application fee. Renewals are free. Applications may be found online or at Town Hall.

## BOAT RAMP & DAY USE PASSES

Boat ramp and day use passes for 2021 can now be purchased or picked up at Town Hall, online or at pay stations located in Arrowhead, Point Vista, and Sycamore Bend. If you purchase the pass at the park pay station you will receive a receipt that requires you to stop by Town Hall during business hours to pick up a permanent sticker. If you purchase passes online, we send the pass to you in the mail. Hickory Creek residents receive a FREE day use pass but you must come by Town Hall to pick up the pass. Boat ramp passes for Hickory Creek residents are \$25. Please place all passes in the front windshield by the inspection sticker so they may easily be seen by officers.

**HICKORY CREEK  
TOWN HALL**

1075 Ronald Reagan  
Avenue  
940-497-2528  
Monday - Thursday  
7:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
Friday  
7:00 AM - 11:00 AM

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

1075 Ronald Reagan  
Avenue  
940-497-3520

**Police/Fire Emergency 911**

Non Emergency  
940-349-1600

**HICKORY CREEK  
ANIMAL SHELTER**

970 Main Street  
940-349-1600  
Monday - Thursday  
6:00 AM - 3:30 PM  
Friday  
6:00 AM - 10:00 AM  
Saturday - Sunday\*  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**\*FOR ADOPTIONS ONLY**

# VISIT YOUR TOWN HALL

Parks & Recreation Board—Third Monday  
Planning & Zoning Commission—Third Tuesday  
Town Council—Fourth Monday  
Economic Development Corporation—Third Thursday

**ALL MEETINGS BEGIN AT 6:00 PM**



## UPCOMING TOWN CLOSURES

**Monday, May 31**

**Memorial Day**

**Monday, July 5**

**Independence Day Observed**